



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

17 FEBRUARY 2022

### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) San Diego – Businessman Admits to Brokering Spyware to Monitor Political and Business Rivals

(U) Mexican businessman Carlos Guerrero pleaded guilty in federal court Tuesday, admitting that he conspired to sell and use spyware tools manufactured by private companies in Italy, Israel and elsewhere. Guerrero owned several US and Mexican companies and brokered sales of signal jammers, phone and Wi-Fi interception tools, and tools that can hack WhatsApp messages, to Mexican government clients, as well as private and commercial customers. Guerrero also used the equipment himself to intercept phone calls of a US rival in Southern California and Mexico.

SOURCE: 15 February 2022, [US DOJ](#)

#### (U) Simi Valley – Butane Honey Oil Laboratory Explodes In Apartment Complex

(U) Simi Valley police arrested a 41-year-old man after a butane honey oil laboratory exploded inside his apartment early Tuesday morning. The explosion blew out windows on the ground floor of the apartment building. The man and his uninjured roommate were taken to a local hospital as a precaution. Police attributed the explosion the volatile chemicals used in making honey oil, a concentration of the psychoactive chemical in marijuana. The injured man was arrested on felony charges of manufacturing a controlled substance. The incident occurred less than a day after another butane honey oil lab exploded at a Stockton area motel, seriously injuring one.

SOURCE: 15 February 2022, [Ventura County Star](#) [CBS Sacramento](#)

#### (U) Visalia – 251 Pounds of Marijuana Found After Car Crashes into Home

(U) Over 250 pounds of marijuana were found in a home Tuesday that police were investigating after a vehicle crashed into it, officials say. While investigating the scene of the crash, officers found evidence of possible drug activity at the home. After obtaining a warrant, investigators found 251 pounds of processed marijuana that they believe was packaged for sale. Jesus Calderon was arrested on suspicion of possessing cannabis for sale, according to police.

SOURCE: 15 February 2022, [Fox 40](#)

### (U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

#### (U) California – USBP Rescues 10 Migrants From Jacumba Wilderness Region

(U) Ocotillo – US Border Patrol (USBP) agents from El Centro Sector rescued 10 migrants in the Jacumba Wilderness region near Ocotillo yesterday morning. USBP agents operating the Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) observed a group of 10 individuals crossing the United States and Mexico border. Soon after, El Centro Sector Dispatch received a call from California Highway Patrol (CHP) notifying them of a lost group. The GPS coordinates provided by CHP indicated that this was the same group that RVSS operators were observing. Agents then apprehended the group transported them to the El Centro Sector Processing Center to be processed accordingly.

SOURCE: 16 February 2022, [USBP](#)

**(U) Texas – \$10 Million Worth of Liquid Meth Found in South Texas Border Town**

(U) Pharr – Police officers Tuesday found 700 gallons of liquid meth worth over \$10 million. The Pharr Police Department reported that an officer was patrolling the area of when they saw three men pouring liquid from several 55-gallon barrels into 5-gallon buckets near liquid tanker trailers. The officer called for backup, and the Pharr Fire Department noticed crystallization forming around the barrels. After testing, it was discovered to be methamphetamine. DEA lab agents estimated that 700 gallons of liquid meth was inside one of the liquid tankers, the eight barrels and the four buckets. The street value is estimated to be over \$10 million.

SOURCE: 16 February 2022, [Border Report](#)

**(U) NATIONAL**

**(U) New York – First Arrests in New York of DEA’s Operation Overdrive**

(U) New York City – Eight defendants were charged in federal court yesterday for distributing fentanyl linked to multiple overdose deaths in the Bronx. This marks the first arrests in New York under the DEA's newly announced Operation Overdrive, which targets drug-related violence and overdose deaths across the United States. Those charged were allegedly part of a drug trafficking organization (DTO) that operated in the Bronx where its members sell glassines of fentanyl in bulk to dealers who then re-distribute the product. In the fall and winter of 2021 alone, authorities estimate the DTO distributed an estimated five to six kilograms of fentanyl per month. Between in or around March 2021 and January 2022, there were at least nine suspected or confirmed fatal overdoses in the Bronx at which stamped glassines tied to the DTO were found on the scene.

SOURCE: 16 February 2022, [DEA](#)

**(U) Florida – Mexican Scientist Pleads Guilty to Spying for Russia**

(U) Miami – A Mexican national pleaded guilty to acting within the United States on behalf of a foreign government. According to court documents, Hector Alejandro Cabrera Fuentes knowingly acted under the direction and control of a Russian government official. Instructed by this Russian official, Fuentes arranged for an intermediary to lease a unit in a specific residential building in Miami-Dade County, Florida, where a specified US person and informant resided. Fuentes traveled to Miami in February 2020 to obtain the license plate number and parking location of the person’s car. According to authorities, Fuentes’ involvement in this case is consistent with the tactics of the Russian intelligence services for spotting, assessing, recruiting, and handling intelligence assets and sources.

SOURCE: 16 February 2022, [US DOJ](#)

**(U) Texas – Houston-Area Neighborhoods Littered with Racist and Anti-Semitic Flyers**

(U) Houston – Two neighborhoods in northeast Harris County were littered with hundreds of racist and anti-Semitic flyers over the weekend. The Harris County Precinct Constable's Office says it's investigating the case after receiving a report from a resident. No suspects have been identified. It was the second time in a week that a Houston-area community was littered with racist flyers. A community in northwest Harris County woke up to White supremacist flyers on their car windshields and the front doors of their homes on 6 February.

SOURCE: 16 February 2022, [CNN](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL**

**(U) Australia – Country Adds Hamas and US Far-Right Group to Outlawed Terrorist List**

(U) Canberra – Australia announced today that it added the US-based far-right extremist group National Socialist Order and planned to add the entirety of Hamas to its list of outlawed terrorist organizations as concerns rise about radicalized children. According to an annual threat assessment, the proportion of new counter-terrorism investigations in Australia involving minors had increased from to less than 3% to 15% in only a few years. At the end of 2021, minors represented more than half of priority counter-terrorism investigations. The National Socialist Order, formerly known as Atomwaffen Division, joins Islamist groups Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham and Hurras al-Din in being added to the list, bringing the number of outlawed groups to 28. The National Socialist Order is only the third far-right group to be designated by Australia as a terrorist organization, after the Base and the Sonnenkrieg Division.

SOURCE: 16 February 2022, [ABC News](#)

**(U) Ukraine – Officials Accuse Pro-Russia Rebels of ‘Provocation’ After Reports of Shelling Near Border**

(U) Donbas – Ukraine has claimed pro-Russian separatists in the country's east opened fire on civilian territory today, damaging a kindergarten. Ukrainian Joint Forces Operation said that pro-Russian separatists had shelled 22 settlements in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, damaging schools, infrastructure, and injuring civilians and military personnel. It also alleged that Russian mercenaries had opened fire in several other locations in eastern Ukraine using artillery and grenades, with the country's Ministry of Defense claiming Russian occupation forces had committed 29 cease-fire violations by 11 a.m. local time. Reports of heightened violence today follow warnings from the US that Moscow could use false claims about the conflict as a pretext for an invasion of Ukraine.

SOURCE: 17 February 2022, [CNBC](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

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